

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

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R 080116Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2969

INFO CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 14188

NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: FEI I-MIN COMMENTS ON CHIAO KUAN-HUA AND PRC

FORIEGN MINISTRY

1. DURING A DECEMBER 7 CONVERSATION WITH CONGENOFFS, TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN LINKED FORMER FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA'S DISMISSAL DIRECTLY TO HIS OCTOBER 2 U.N. SPEECH. HAVING ALREADY DESCRIBED THE WELL-KNOWN STORY CONCERNING THE "GANG OF FOUR'S" ALTERNATION OF MAO'S LAST BEHEST INTO THE PHRASE "ACT ACCORDING RILM 53 048 NCIPLES LAID DOWN", FEI SAID THAT CHIAO COMMITTED HIS "BIGGEST BLUNDER" BY USING THIS PHRASE FOUR TIMES IN THE DRAFT OF HIS U.N. SPEECH. THE TEXT ALLEGEDLY WAS THEN SENT TO PREMIER HUA FOR APPROVAL, AND HUA DEMANDED THE DELETION OF ALL FOUR REFERENCES, NOTING IN THE MARGIN THAT, OF THE SIX CHINESE CHARACTERS INVOLVED, THREE WERE INCORRECT. WHEN THE TEXT WAS RETURNED TO CHIAO, FEI SAID, THE FONMIN THEN SENT IT TO CHANG CHUN-CHIAO, A BREACH OF PROTOCOL, CHANG ALLEGEDLY BECAME VERY CONCERNED AND NOTED ON THE TEXT THAT THE WHOLE MATTER MUST BE KEPT SECRET.

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2. ON A MORE PERSONAL NOTE, FEI ADDED THAT CHIAO HAD BEEN GREATLY INFLUENCED BY HIS YOUNG WIFE CHANG HAN-CHIH. FEI, WHO IS AN OLD FRIEND OF CHANG'S FATHER, CHANG SHIH-CHAO, SAID HE RARELY MET WITH CHANG HAN-CHIH, BUT HE INDICATED THAT CHANG HAN-CHIH IS AN ADOPTED CHILD HAVING BEEN TAKEN IN BY ONE OF CHANG SHIH-CHAO'S TWO CONCUBINES, WHO WAS HERSELF A "SING-SONG GIRL" AND UNABLE TO BEAR CHILDREN. FEI'S CLEAR INTENT WAS TO DISPARAGE CHANG HAN-CHIH'S BACKGROUND AND IMPLICATE A WILLFUL YOUNG WIFE HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER'S DOWNFALL.

3. ASKED ABOUT OTHER POSSIBLE SHIFTS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH THE RECALL OF A NUMBER OF PRC AMBASSADORS, FEI SAID HE HAD NO WORD FROM PEKING ON OTHER CHANGES. HE SAID THAT HE KNEW OF ONLY THREE DISMISSALS THUS FAR: CHIAO KUAN-HUA, CHANG HAN-CHIH, AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL CHU CHUAN-HSIEN. THE LATTERS FALL, HE SAID CAME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF CHU'S OVERZEALOUS ATTENTION TO AND FLATTERY OF CHIANG CHING. REFERRING TO RUMORS THAT CHEN CHU, PRC AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO HAD ALSO BEEN LINKED TO CHIANG CHING AND HER FOLLOWERS, FEI PROFESSED TO BE SKEPTICAL. HE NOTED THAT BOTH CHEN AND CHIANG CHING WERE FROM THE SAME PROVINCE OF SHANGTUNG BUT POINTED OUT THAT CHEN HAS BEEN ABROAD THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF THE POWER STRUGGLE.

4. COMMENT: FEI'S DESCRIPTION OF CHIAO KUAN-HUA'S TROUBLES HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED BY OTHER SOURCES, BUT FEI HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A NINE-DAY STAY IN CANTON WHERE HE WAS OBVIOUSLY BRIEFED ON EVENTS SURROUNDING THE "GANG OF FOUR" AND SAW COPIES OF MANY OF THE DOCUMENTS HE DISCUSSED. CROSS

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